

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section number \_\_\_\_\_ Page \_\_\_\_\_

SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD

NRIS Reference Number: 91001931 Date Listed: 1/17/92

Parsonage of the Mountville Reformed Dutch Church Morris NJ  
Property Name: County: State:

Dutch Stone Houses in Montville MPS  
Multiple Name

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This property is listed in the National Register of Historic Places in accordance with the attached nomination documentation subject to the following exceptions, exclusions, or amendments, notwithstanding the National Park Service certification included in the nomination documentation.

Patrick Andrus  
Signature of the Keeper

4/6/92  
Date of Action

=====  
Amended Items in Nomination:

The SHPO agrees with the following changes: the Historic Function of this building is religious residence; the Period of Significance is 1840, which reflects the building's architectural importance, and is not extended to 1885 for its use as a parsonage; Criteria Consideration A (Religious Property) applies to this building. The form is officially amended to reflect these changes.

**DISTRIBUTION:**  
National Register property file  
Nominating Authority (without nomination attachment)

1931

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form



NATIONAL REGISTER

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name Parsonage of the Montville Reformed Dutch Church
other names/site number Cornelius Doremus House

2. Location

street & number 107 Changebridge Road
city, town Montville
state New Jersey code 034 county Morris code 027 zip code 07045

3. Classification

Table with 3 columns: Ownership of Property, Category of Property, and Number of Resources within Property. Includes checkboxes for private/public ownership and buildings/sites/structures/objects categories.

Name of related multiple property listing: Dutch Stone Houses of Montville

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.
Signature of certifying official: James R. Bell
Date: 11/25/91
Assistant Commissioner for Natural & Historic Resources/DSHPO

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.
Signature of commenting or other official
Date
State or Federal agency and bureau

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register.
determined eligible for the National Register.
determined not eligible for the National Register.
removed from the National Register.
other, (explain:)

Signature of the Keeper: Patrick Andrews
Date of Action: 1/17/92

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

**6. Function or Use**

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC / single dwelling

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Domestic / single dwelling

**7. Description**

Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

MID-19TH CENTURY / Greek Revival

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation Sandstone

walls Sandstone

Brick

roof Wood shake

other Wood addition

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

The so-called Cornelius Doremus House should more correctly be called the old Parsonage of the Montville Reformed Dutch Church. Although Cornelius Doremus's 18th-century stone house stood on this site, the 1840 alterations remodelling it to a parsonage were so extensive that almost nothing remains of Cornelius' house. The resultant building is beautiful and unique among the Dutch houses of Montville, for it is a two-story structure, with gambrel roof, a brick facade, and Greek Revival details. This is the last local house to incorporate any elements of the Dutch building tradition, although it is heavily influenced by the emerging 19th century American architectural trends and by the Dutch communities beyond Morris County.

The house has a five bay, symmetrical facade of common bond brick up to the sill level of the narrow second floor windows. These eyebrow windows are set in a wooden "frieze" typical of vernacular Greek Revival architecture. A mid-20th century photograph of the house shows the frieze to have been vertical boards, laid flush with each other. The frieze is now covered with large, rustic wooden shingles. The south side and rear of the house are stone, a fine-grained purplish sandstone with carefully dressed corner quoins and uncoursed fieldstone walls. The attic gable ends and a frame kitchen wing off the north side of the house are covered with rustic wooden shingles.

On the brick facade, slate slabs form a water table above the fieldstone foundation. The foundation matches the stonework of the gable end, and may be considered a survivor of the earlier house on the site. The stonework is slightly different on the northern half of the facade, where the corner quoins are also dressed sandstone, but with different markings and coloration than those used on the gable end. This supports the belief that the original house covered only the area of the center entry and southernmost two bays of the existing house; the balancing bays to the north side of the house were added in the 1840 renovations.

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The center entry is reached by stone steps on a concrete base, obviously a later replacement of what must have originally been a wooden stoop or portico. The paneled door is surrounded by sidelights framed by engaged pilasters, and topped by a transom. The projecting portico is a 20th century addition in the Craftsman style with its decorative, exposed rafters and pergola-like elements suggesting a pediment over the door.

Large six-over-six sash windows light the first floor, flanked by operable paneled shutters of 20th century vintage, with a cut-out circle motif in the top panel. Flat stone lintels and sills mark the windows and door. There are no windows on the broad gable end of the house, characteristic of old Dutch houses, in spite of the fact that this wall faces south. Narrow casement windows mark the attic level; lunette windows mark the top of the gable on each end.

The gambrel roof is covered with wooden shingles, and paired brick chimneys rise from each side of the roof ridge. The gambrel roof was used as frequently as the gable roof on Dutch houses in Bergen County, where it developed in the late 18th century and continued to be used into the 19th century.<sup>1</sup> The Dutch Reformed Parsonage is the only extant example of the gambrel roof used historically on a stone house in Montville. Paired brick chimneys rise from either side of the roof ridge at both gable ends.

A gambrel roof has been used on the story-and-a-half frame wing off the north gable end of the house. Added in the late 19th or early 20th centuries as a kitchen, it was extended to the rear and extensively remodelled as a kitchen and family room in 1987. This kitchen wing now connects to a two-story brick garage built in the 1930s as a detached structure. The garage, containing two vehicle bays and studio space above, harmonizes in materials and scale with the historic house. An unusual feature of the frame kitchen wing is its front door which is reached by a short flight of sandstone steps. The top step, by its size and barely visible inscription at one end, may be a reused gravestone. Unfortunately, the words have all weathered to illegibility except for the name "HILER", a local surname.

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<sup>1</sup> "Early Stone Houses of Bergen County", National Register of Historic Places Nomination Form, ONJH, 1979.

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The house and garage form an "L" plan structure, with a broad sheltered porch in the corner. The exposed rafters and stocky column supports of the porch are similar to the detailing of the front door surround. The porch floor is paved with brick.

The rubble stone of the old rear wall of the house is visible here, including the worn sandstone stoop for the back door. Large stones irregularly coursed are interspersed with smaller stones in the pattern found on the 18th century stone houses of Montville, suggesting that the rear wall is also a survivor of the original house on the property. There is clearly a seam in the stonework to the left of the rear door, indicating where the extension of the house was made to the north. The exterior basement entry is located on the rear (west) wall, a departure from the traditional facade basement entry found on other Dutch houses in the region. However, it was moved to the rear wall, perhaps in the 1840 renovations, because the original entry site may still be discerned as a patch in the stonework of the facade.

Inside, the house is also a departure from traditional Dutch architecture. A wide center hall containing a staircase with stock 19th century turned newell post and banisters connects the back-to-back rooms on the south side of the house and the single large room (formerly two rooms) on the north side of the house. Each of the double parlors contains a fireplace, centered on the gable end wall, with a plain wooden Greek Revival style mantle of pilasters and lintels. A wide opening between the parlors contains a pair of hinged doors, with the paired long, narrow panels characteristic of the Greek Revival style. The woodwork in the parlors, including floor-length window surrounds and door surrounds, is Greek Revival in style, with eared corners top and bottom. The woodwork suggests that the unknown builder was familiar with high style Greek Revival work, perhaps through observation in urban centers or through the pattern books of Minard Lafever and others.

The tall ceilings (9' high on the first floor) are certainly a departure from the very low ceilings found in 18th century Dutch houses. The floorboards in the hall and parlors are eight to nine inches wide. Those in the northern wing are narrower and more uniformly sized.

The basement under the oldest part of the house has stone walls, into which are set the support joists. These do not run parallel to the gable like they do in traditional Dutch construction, but are set perpendicular to the gable end. The heavy

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beams are hand hewn, and between them, the wide floor boards of the first floor are visible. The two fireplaces have no foundation, but are carried on the gable end wall itself and the hearth rests in a wooden "cradle" cantilevered from the gable wall. The brick floor of the basement was added in the 1980s.

There is no foundation under the broad center hall of the house. A tunnel-like passage runs past the solid stone under the hall area to a separate basement under the northern section of the house. Here the framing is made of split logs, with some bark remaining. These beams run parallel to the gable end, but are not long enough to span the 28 foot depth of the building. In the center, perpendicular to the gable end, is a hewn heavy timber, into which the rough beams are notched. Other mortise holes in this timber indicate that it had another use prior to incorporation in the parsonage.

A rough mass of masonry serves as the support for the gable end wall fireplace of the northern end of the house. The fireplace in the north room has a simple, classically styled wooden mantel. The fireplace on the second floor is surrounded by a traditional-looking paneled wall hiding built-in closets, a creation of the present owner in 1988. The floorplan of the second floor echoes that of the first floor. A trap door in the ceiling makes the attic accessible. A separate attic is unusual in Dutch houses, where the open second floor loft served as storage and extra sleeping space.

The Parsonage of the Dutch Reformed Church in Montville faces Changebridge Road behind a low stone wall. This busy road has been extant since the 18th century; the house was built with its orientation toward the road, and not with the facade toward the south as was traditional. The church was around the corner on Church Road, a short walk away. Part of the parsonage property was subdivided off in 1885, and a new parsonage was built to the north of this house. The remaining property includes a pond and woodlands. There are no historic outbuildings.

**8. Statement of Significance**

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally     statewide     locally

Applicable National Register Criteria     A     B     C     D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions)     A     B     C     D     E     F     G    N/A

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)  
ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance  
1840-1885

Significant Dates  
1840

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

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\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Cultural Affiliation  
N/A

Significant Person    N/A

Architect/Builder    unknown

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

The Reformed Dutch Church Parsonage is significant under National Register Criterion C, architectural merit. The existing house is an important local example of Greek Revival architecture, built on the site of an 18th century Dutch stone house. The Parsonage features a gambrel roof, which has come to characterize Dutch colonial architecture, although this is the only example of the type in Montville. The house represents the diminishing influence of Dutch traditions in the 19th century as the Dutch assimilated "American" ways of language, architecture, and culture. The house is very well preserved and maintains a high degree of architectural integrity. The Reformed Dutch Parsonage meets the criteria for inclusion in the Dutch Stone Houses of Montville Township Multiple Property Nomination.

In 1840, John R. Van Duyne sold a lot containing 22.67 acres and an old house to the Consistory of the Montville Reformed Dutch Church. The church had recently welcomed a new minister, the Rev. Jeremiah S. Lord, and a suitable residence was required. The old house was completely remodelled and enlarged, and the resulting Greek Revival style structure served as the Parsonage for the next forty-five years.

In Munsell's History of Morris County, John Kanouse wrote that Cornelius Doremus "...owned the farm and lived in a house that stood on the site of the present parsonage..."<sup>2</sup> This seems to imply that Doremus' house was destroyed, although it in fact reflects the extensive additions and alterations which took place.

<sup>2</sup> John Kanouse, "Pequannock Township", History of Morris County, New Jersey, W.W. Munsell & Co., New York, 1882, p. 284.

See continuation sheet

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Cornelius Doremus (1765-1859) was a member of the large local family whose concentration of homesteads in the Towaco area of the township at one time carried the name Doremustown. As a young boy, Cornelius saw George Washington when the general stayed the night in his father's house in 1780.<sup>3</sup> In 1789, Cornelius married at age 24, and the couple received a farm from his father, Thomas Doremus. The farm was on land originally purchased in 1714 by Humphrey Davenport, one of the earliest settlers in the region. Davenport's heirs sold some of the tract to Robert Gould in 1734, and other land was purchased from the Davenports by the Goulds a decade later. There is no deed from Gould to Thomas Doremus, but it seems that Thomas had acquired a one hundred acre parcel of the land between the Rockaway River and Changebridge Road before 1789. In that year the heirs of Judge Gould further subdivided the family's holdings and noted a common property line with land owned by Thomas Doremus.

Thomas Doremus is believed to have lived in the stone house on present-day Route 202 he purchased from his brother, Henry, in 1782. If a house already existed on the Changebridge Road property, Thomas did not live in it. He seems to have acquired the property expressly for the purpose of providing for his son. As was the custom, Cornelius did not actually receive title to the property until his father's death in 1810 released it to him by will. In the meantime, Cornelius farmed and paid the taxes on the land; firmly and literally tied to the fatherland.

Cornelius Doremus may well have had a stone house constructed on the property. The fieldstone gable end wall, the rear wall, and part of the front foundation of the current house are typical of the other 18th century Dutch stone houses in the area. Other than these stone walls, however, nothing remains of the dwelling which Cornelius shared with his wife, Eleanor Mandeville, for nearly half a century.

On April 7, 1836, at the age of 72, Cornelius Doremus sold his farm to John Van Duyne. The Dutch system of inheritance had largely been overthrown by the first quarter of the 19th century, and Cornelius sold his property to a willing buyer, rather than

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<sup>3</sup> See the individual nomination for the Henry Doremus House in the Dutch Stone Houses of Montville Multiple Property Nomination.



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dividing it up among his sons for their use and future inheritance. Cornelius remained in Montville until 1846, the year of his wife's death. Released from all the ancient ties, Cornelius moved to New York City to live with his son Thomas, and died there at the age of 94 in 1859.

The old Doremus House was extensively altered to create a fashionable and impressive parsonage. The Morris Canal, which passed through Montville, boosted the local economy and brought new ideas to the rural community in the 1830s and 40s. The old Doremus House was no doubt purchased because of its proximity to the church, but its old-fashioned architecture was not considered suitable for the new minister.

The Dutch Reformed Church of Lower Montville was organized in 1756, but the early church had no regular minister and meetings were held in whatever building afforded space. The first church building was erected in Old Boonton; only in 1818 was the church actually constructed in Montville on the site of the present building on Church Lane. The church split over doctrinal issues in 1827, and for the next decade, pastors from other areas filled in for a year or two. Possibly in order to bring some stability to the congregation, and attract a more permanent minister, the Montville Dutch Reformed Church determined to create a parsonage. The tactic seemed to work: tenure of ministers serving after 1840 was noticeably longer than before.

The Parsonage not only reflects new ideas about architectural decoration, but a fundamental change in attitude about space. The earlier Dutch houses of the community were entered directly from the exterior, and rooms opened off of other rooms. In the Parsonage, entry is made into a formal hall, with entry to each room from the hall. This ordering device implies distinct functions for different rooms, and gives the notion of privacy a spatial meaning. Such attitudes were expressed in Georgian houses of the 18th century, but were not part of the traditional Dutch culture of this region at that time.

The details of the house are obviously Greek Revival, a fashionable choice, but also one which expressed the intentions of the Dutch Reformed Church. In the associative language of architecture during the Romantic Revival period, the Greek Revival

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was considered the emblem of ancient learning, stability and democratic traditions.<sup>4</sup> The Gothic Revival style was also fashionable at the time, but its close association with the Roman Catholic Church was no doubt a cause for its rejection by the Calvinist congregation.

The use of a two-story form follows prevailing mid-19th century ideas about house arrangement, although it had been almost unknown in Montville in Cornelius Doremus' youth. The gambrel roof was known in the area, but it was not a characteristic feature of Dutch architecture there the way it was in Bergen County. The use of the gambrel roof here may have been a sign of the "Dutchness" of the congregation building the parsonage, and both emblem and reminder of the larger Dutch community to which the Montville Church belonged.

The parsonage was used by the church until 1885, when it was sold and a new parsonage erected next door. The old parsonage has remained a private residence since that date. The present owners as well as the two prior owners, the Raymond Richardsons (owners 1928-1951) and the S. R. Joneses (owners 1951-1986) have a great interest in the historic associations of the house, and have worked to preserve and maintain all significant features.

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<sup>4</sup> Roger G. Kennedy, Greek Revival in America, A National Trust for Historic Preservation Book. New York: Stewart, Tabouri, and Chang, 1989.

**9. Major Bibliographical References**

Bailey, Rosalie Fellows. Pre-Revolutionary Dutch Stone Houses and Families. New York: The Holland Society, 1936.

Fowler, Alex D. Splinters From the Past. Morristown, N.J.: Morris County Historical Society, 1984, pp. 75-79.

Kanouse, John L. "Montville Township" and "Pequannock Township", History of Morris County, New Jersey. New York: W. W. Munsell & Co., 1882.

Kennedy, Roger G. Greek Revival America. A National Trust for Historic Preservation Book. New York: Stewart Tabouri & Chang, 1989.

See continuation sheet

- Previous documentation on file (NPS): N/A
- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
  - previously listed in the National Register
  - previously determined eligible by the National Register
  - designated a National Historic Landmark
  - recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # \_\_\_\_\_
  - recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # \_\_\_\_\_

Primary location of additional data:

- State historic preservation office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Specify repository:  
Morristown & Morris Township Public Lib.  
1 Miller Road, Morristown, N.J. 07960

**10. Geographical Data**

Acreege of property 4.37 acres Pompton Plains, NJ Quad

UTM References

A 18 553480 4527640  
 Zone Easting Northing

C \_\_\_\_\_

B \_\_\_\_\_  
 Zone Easting Northing

D \_\_\_\_\_

See continuation sheet

**Verbal Boundary Description**

The entire, roughly square lot west of Changebridge Road in Montville Township known as Block 123, Lot 2.

See continuation sheet

**Boundary Justification**

The 4.37 acres remaining with the house are part of the 22.67 acre tract sold to the Montville Reformed Church in 1840. The lot contains a pond and woodland, in addition to open land, providing an appropriate setting for the historic house.

See continuation sheet

**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title Janet W. Foster / Associate Director

organization Acrotetion date September 14, 1990

street & number 71 Maple Avenue telephone 201 984 9660

city or town Morristown state N.J. zip code 07960

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

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PHOTOGRAPHS

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Dutch Reformed Parsonage  
Dutch Stone Houses of Montville

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Parsonage of the Montville Reformed Dutch Church  
107 Changebridge Road  
Montville Township, Morris County, New Jersey

Photographs by Janet W. Foster  
Acroterion Historic Preservation Consultants  
August 1990.  
Original negatives held by Acroterion, 71 Maple Avenue  
Morristown, N.J.

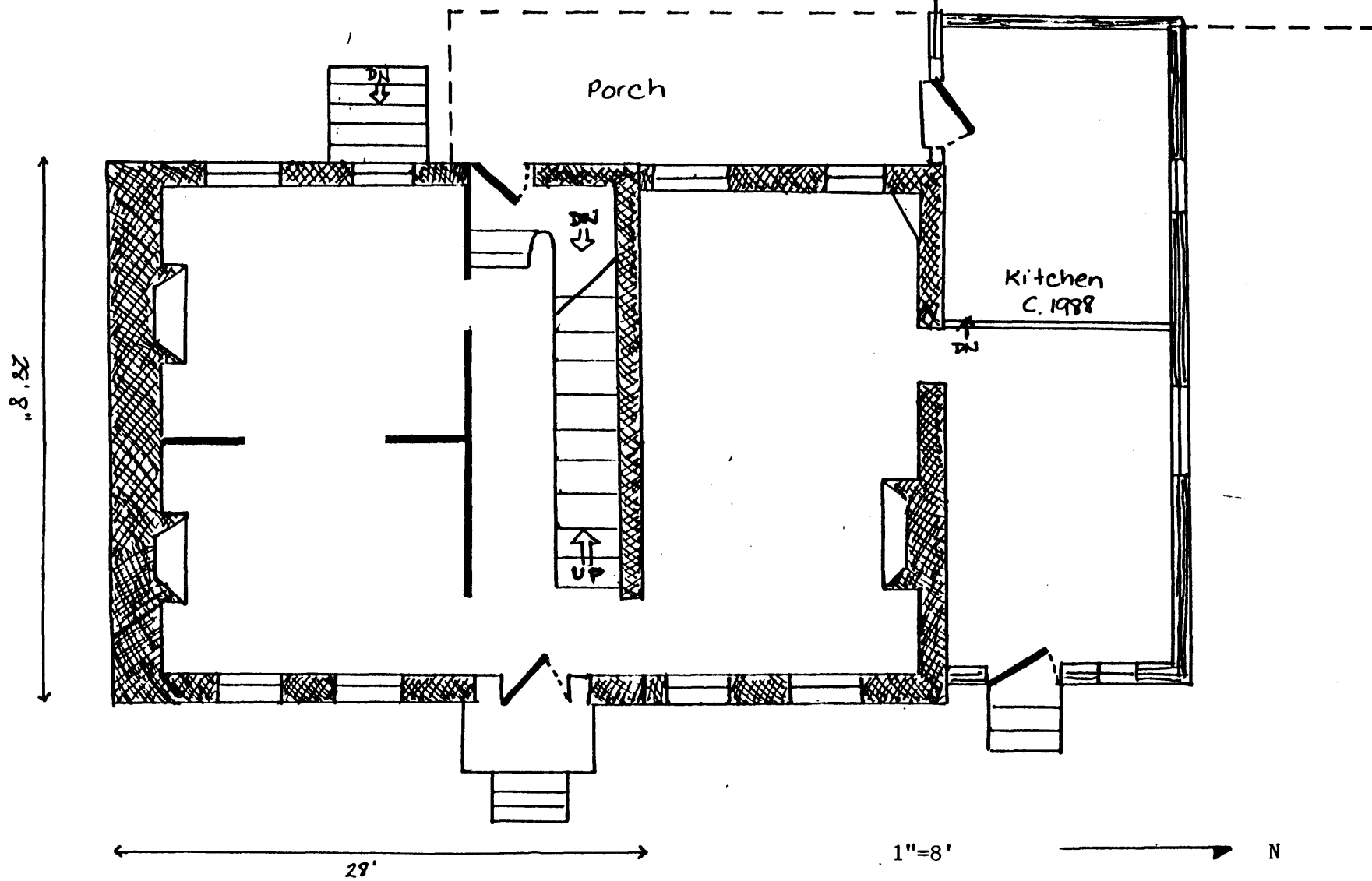
- 1 of 10: Camera facing west: facade
- 2 of 10: Camera facing west: front entry detail
- 3 of 10: Camera facing north: south gable end
- 4 of 10: Camera facing northeast: rear and south gable end
- 5 of 10: Camera facing north: detail of stonework from southwest corner of building; stonework presumed to be 18th century
- 6 of 10: Camera facing southwest: north kitchen wing of house
- 7 of 10: Camera facing north: garage (ca. 1930) now connected to house via new (1988) stone hyphen, seen at right
- 8 of 10: Interior. Camera facing west. Center hall looking front to back.
- 9 of 10: Interior. Camera facing east. Front parlor, typical window enframingent of first floor.
- 10 of 10: Interior. Camera facing southwest. Rear parlor, typical fireplace surround.

Parsonage of the Dutch Reformed Church  
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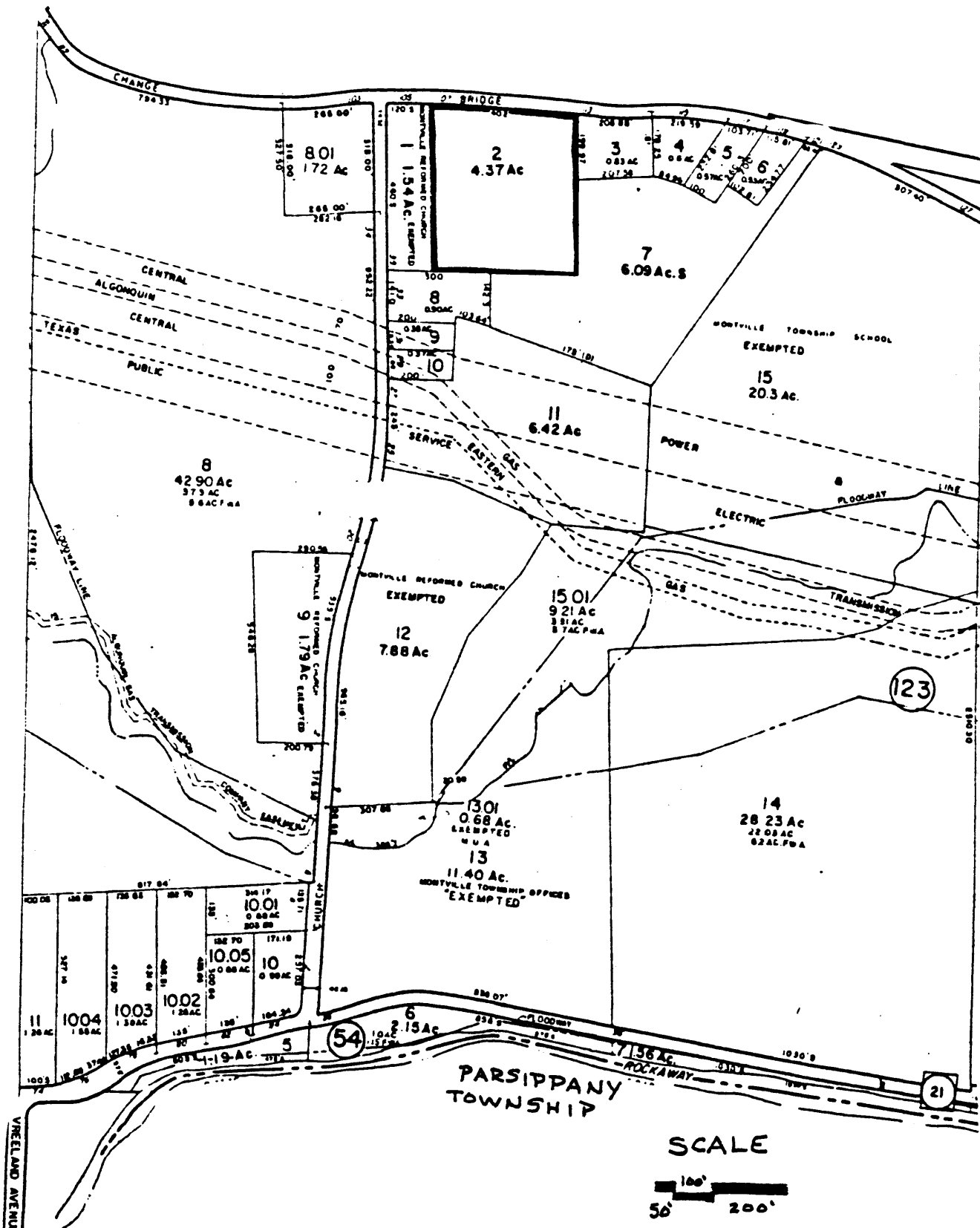
Cornelius Doremus House

Drawn August 1990 by  
Catherine Partington

Brick Garage  
C. 1930

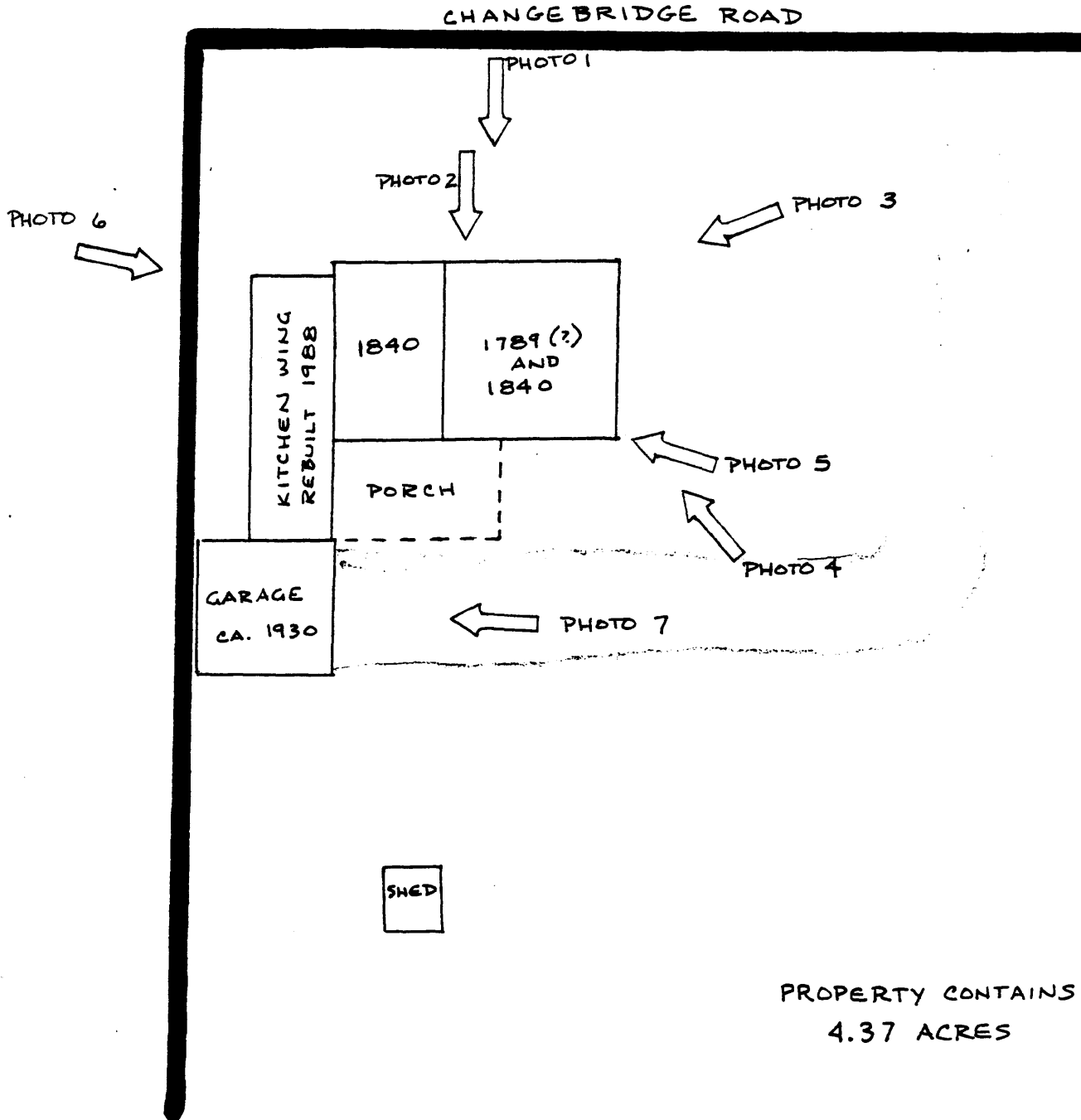
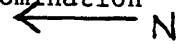


Parsonage of the Dutch Reformed Church  
 Dutch Stone Houses of Montville  
 Multiple Property Nomination  
 Montville, Morris County, New Jersey



Dutch Reformed Parsonage (Cornelius Doremus House)

Dutch Stone Houses of Montville Multiple Property Nomination  
Montville, Morris County, New Jersey



1 CM = 10 FEET